

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the remarks provided below is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 31-37 are pending, claims 31 and 33 having been amended herein.

Claims 31-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatenable over Luizzi (EP1013291 A2) in view of Carlucci (US2003/0065299). Claims 33-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luizzi (EP1013291 A2) in view of Carlucci (US 2003/0065299) as applied to claim 31 and further in view of Grondin et al (US 6103954).

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 31-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatenable over Luizzi (EP1013291 A2), in view of Carlucci (US2003/0065299). Claims 33-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luizzi (EP1013291 A2) in view of Carlucci (US 2003/0065299) as applied to claim 31 and further in view of Grondin et al (US 6103954). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 31 has been amended herein to read as follows:

31. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising:
a substantially transparent body-faceable, liquid-permeable cover layer;
a substantially transparent, liquid-impermeable barrier layer;
a substantially transparent liquid absorbing absorbent system arranged between said cover layer and said barrier layer, wherein said absorbent system is [[substantially]] free of [[cellulosic]] fibrous material and comprises a mixture of a hot melt adhesive and a liquid-absorbing polymer.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention as recited in amended claim 31. In particular it is respectfully submitted that none of the references teach an absorbent article as claimed including a substantially transparent liquid absorbing absorbent system arranged between the cover layer and the barrier layer, wherein the absorbent system is ***free of fibrous material and comprises a mixture of a hot melt adhesive and a liquid-absorbing polymer***.

With regard to claim 32, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references, alone or in combination, disclose an absorbent article as claimed wherein *the absorbent system consists* essentially of a substantially transparent liquid absorbing coating consisting essentially of said hot melt adhesive and said liquid-absorbing polymer. In this regard, it is noted that the absorbent system of Luizzi includes an absorbent element 30 in Fig. 2, an absorbent element 430 in Fig. 5, an absorbent element 630 in Fig. 7, and an absorbent element 1130 in Fig. 12. Thus, it is not seen how Luizzi discloses an absorbent article wherein the “*absorbent system consists* essentially of a substantially transparent liquid absorbing coating consisting essentially of said hot melt adhesive and said liquid-absorbing polymer” as claimed.

Claims 33-37 depend from claim 32 and are thus allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 32 and claim 31.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative if any further action will expedite the prosecution of the application or if the Examiner has any suggestions or questions concerning the application or the present Amendment. In fact, if the claims of the application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP § 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP § 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 27, 2009